

management systems, restructure the curriculum, and set up an academy system that improved the interaction among the staff and the students.

Because of these efforts, Hanford High School has been at the forefront of the restructuring efforts at the State and national levels, and has received several State and national recognitions.

These efforts have paid off at the level that counts the most: student achievement. When Dr. Mayer started at the high school district, student test scores were in the lowest 25th percentile among State schools. Now, after 10 years of Dr. Mayer's leadership, the student scores are in the top 30th percentile. Knowing Dr. Mayer, I am sure this accomplishment is the one that he is the most proud of.

I understand that although Dr. Mayer is retiring, he intends to remain involved in education continuing to teach college education courses. I, for one, certainly hope he does so—tomorrow's educators have a lot to learn from this distinguished superintendent.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a dedicated educator, who has always put the concerns of the children first, by congratulating Dr. Arthur Mayer on his retirement.

POSTURING ON ABORTION

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for unanimous consent to insert Father Robert F. Drinan's opinion editorial "Posturing on Abortion," the New York Times, June 4, 1996 into the RECORD. Father Drinan, a Jesuit priest, is also a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center and a former Representative from Massachusetts.

I applaud Father Drinan for standing up in support of a goal that both Democrats and Republicans should agree to—limiting the number of abortions in the United States. Father Drinan rightly argues that Congress and the President should move away from partisan grandstanding on abortion issues and work together to protect women's reproductive health.

As a Catholic, I would like to thank Father Drinan for publicly opposing the so-called partial birth abortion ban. It was incredibly difficult for me to vote against this bill. Yet as Father Drinan noted, Congress should be focusing on reducing the number of abortions, not posturing on issues that do not allow doctors to safeguard women's health or protect those unfortunate victims of incest and rape.

POSTURING ON ABORTION

(By Robert F. Drinan)

WASHINGTON.—The indignant voices of the pro-life movement and the Republican Party will likely reach new decibels in the campaign to urge Congress to override President Clinton's veto of the bill banning so-called partial-birth abortions. But Congress should sustain the veto. The bill does not provide an exception for women whose health is at risk, and it would be virtually unenforceable.

I write this as a Jesuit priest who agrees with Vatican II, which said abortion is virtually infanticide, and as a lawyer who wants the Clinton Administration to do more to carry out its pledge to make abortions rare in this country.

The bill the President vetoed would not reduce the number of abortions, but would allow Federal power to intrude into the practice of medicine in an unprecedented way. It would also detract from the urgent need to decrease abortions, especially among unwed teen-agers.

The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act passed the House by 286 to 129, and 290 votes are required to override the veto. It cleared the Senate by 54 to 44; though it seems unlikely that 13 of the 44 votes would change, all bets are off in an election year.

More than 95 percent of all abortions take place before 15 weeks. Only about one-half of 1 percent take place at or after 20 weeks. If a woman has carried a child for five months, it is extremely unlikely that she will want an abortion.

The three procedures available for later abortions are complicated and can be dangerous. The vetoed bill would have criminalized only one—a technique called dilation and extraction—that medical experts say is the safest of the three. The bill calls this procedure a "partial birth," a term that experts reject as a misnomer. Indeed, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists supported the veto.

President Clinton said he would sign a bill regulating late-term abortions if it provided an exception for women whose health might be at risk if they did not have the procedure. As the bill stands, the abortion would be allowed only if a woman might die without it. Mr. Clinton is serious. As Governor of Arkansas, he signed a bill prohibiting late abortions except for minors impregnated by rape or incest or when the woman's life or health is endangered.

In any case, a conviction would be difficult to obtain if the bill became law. Legal experts say that doctors could argue that the language was too vague for a measure that imposed criminal sanctions. And juries might be reluctant to convict a doctor who aborted a fetus that was likely to be still-born or in cases where the woman's health or ability to have children was in jeopardy.

The bill would also sanction intrusive enforcement by requiring Federal officials to keep informed about doctors who performed late-term abortions. The F.B.I. would be authorized to tell nurses and health aides that they had a duty to tell officials about illegal late abortions.

If Congress were serious about getting a law on the books limiting late abortions, it would include the woman's health as justification for the late-term procedure. But it seems more intent on using Mr. Clinton's veto as a political weapon. This will poison the campaign and inhibit a larger discussion about real strategies to reduce abortions.

U.S. ARMY CECOM RECEIVES 1996 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROTOTYPE AWARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command [CECOM], Logistics and Readiness Center in receiving the 1996 Quality Improvement Prototype [QIP] Award for the President's Quality Award [PQA] Program. This is truly a great accomplishment and reflection of the dedicated and professional staff employed at the CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center, at Fort Monmouth, NJ. It is,

moreover, a deserved recognition of the center's quality accomplishments and team-work in the fields of communications and electronics.

Mr. Speaker, the work done by the people at CECOM's Logistics and Readiness Center is not an easy undertaking, and the significance of winning the QIP cannot be underscored enough. Despite the demands placed on the shoulders of those tasked with maintaining the U.S. Army's communications and electronics equipment, the Logistics and Readiness Center, year-in-and-year-out, runs a well-planned system that spans all levels of the organization—the true hallmark of a first-class, quality-managed operation. The panel of judges responsible for designating the recipient, which is comprised of representatives from both the Federal government and the private sector, conducted a rigorous selection process. And as the quality and number of the other organizations vying for this prestigious award indicates, the competition was keen. In short—as is evidenced by the list of previous recipients of the QIP—to win this award is to be designated as among the best America has to offer.

In closing, I once again commend the people of the CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center for their efforts. By winning the 1996 Quality Improvement Prototype Award, the center has undeniably established itself as a model of excellence for all to follow. I congratulate the hardworking people of the CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center for a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKHAVEN FIREFIGHTER'S MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brookhaven Volunteer Firefighters Museum and to the founders of this wondrous historical preserve, dedicated to the heroic tradition of volunteer firefighting in the Town of Brookhaven, Long Island. These devoted men and women turned their collective dream into a poignant legacy of the history of volunteerism in Brookhaven's 38 fire departments.

Officially dedicated on Saturday, May 25, 1996, the Brookhaven Volunteer Firefighters Museum is a wonderfully fitting tribute to the generations of heroic volunteers who, time and again, answered the call for help and selflessly put themselves in harms way to protect their neighbors and communities. Within the walls of this 100-year-old former fire house is an impressive storehouse of memorabilia and apparatus, historical photos and old newspapers clippings from the earliest days of organized firefighting. Included in the museum's collection are eight antique firetrucks, an original 1890 Hook and Ladder cart from the Bellport Fire Department and a century-old portable fire extinguisher donated by the Brookhaven Town Highway Department. There is also an amazing array of original fire shields, nozzles, hoses, and alarm bells.

But more than just a dusty collection of antiquated equipment, this museum shelters within its walls the memories of heroic deeds, of